

Address by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi  
on the Occasion of the Tokyo Plenary  
Meeting  
of the Trilateral Commission  
Saturday, April 22, 2006

Mr. Kobayashi, Ambassador Foley, Mr.  
Sutherland, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and  
Gentlemen,

As you once again convene a Plenary Meeting of  
the Trilateral Commission in Tokyo after six years, I am  
delighted to welcome so many eminent intellectuals  
from North America, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific.

Those of you who attended the Plenary Meeting  
held here six years ago will perhaps recall that Japan,  
in the aftermath of the bursting of its bubble economy,  
had appeared to have lost confidence in itself and its  
future.

Over the past five years, under the policy of “without reform there will be no growth,” I worked hard on structural reform in order to revitalize Japan and create a society which has both confidence and pride. The Japanese economy is moving along the recovery track led by the private sector, and the confidence and vitality of the Japanese people have returned.

We live in a world in which we reap the benefits of globalization in our daily lives. And yet we are also confronted with serious global issues like the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, infectious diseases, and environmental issues.

In Asia, the rise of China and India has had impacts on the global order, but various challenges remain, such as the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Such common values as freedom and democracy, the market economy, and respect for fundamental human rights are not only shared by North America, Europe, and Japan, but also becoming increasingly widespread in Asia. Against this background, I believe

that the Trilateral Commission is poised to play an even more significant role than it has in the past.

In particular, the themes which will form the core of the discussions here, including nuclear proliferation, energy security, and the development of free trade, are those which are of common relevance to all of our regions. It is therefore imperative for our nations to work together, hand in hand. I very much hope that this meeting will be characterized by a frank and active exchange of views among all the participants.

During the five years of my Administration, we have been working to create an economy in Japan that is attractive to foreign investment. We have also been promoting the Visit Japan campaign, through which foreign visitors can come to know Japan as a country of warmth and hospitality.

I very much hope that during your stay in Japan you have the opportunity to do more than join in these deliberations, but also take this as a chance to experience the newly-revitalized Japan for yourselves, enjoying the many delights that Japan has to offer.